BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

Wednesday 18 November 2026

Quarter 2 26/27 Performance Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen May, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Rob Elmes, Assistant Director for Corporate Services and Transformation
Report Author:	Helen Mole Job Title: Performance and Improvement Manager Contact email: h.mole@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Council Priorities	All
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that:

The overview of Quarter 2 performance for the period July to September 2026 against the Council Plan priorities be noted.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 There are a set of corporate measures which are organised by the priorities set out in the Bromsgrove District Council Plan 2024–2027. The summary table for quarterly performance can be found in Appendix 1 which includes the current and previous quarter's data.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 The corporate measures are structured under the Council Plan priorities:

- Economic Development
- Environment
- Housing
- Community Safety

- Organisational Priorities

Delivery of Council Plan (Measures)

3.2 An assessment of the Council's performance measures over the last quarter offers insight into progress, stability and challenges across each priority area, informing assurance on delivery against the Council Plan.

3.3 As part of the annual review of the Corporate Performance Framework, several performance measures have been added and removed for 2026/27. Members should note these changes when comparing performance trends with previous years.

3.4 This ensures that the framework remains relevant, reflects current service priorities, and focuses on the indicators that best demonstrate the Council's performance and the outcomes being achieved for residents.

Economic Development:

3.5 ***ED-01/02*** The business grant funding performance measures track grants funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2026, with figures reported cumulatively. Businesses apply for funding and, if successful, receive an award confirmed through a funding agreement. "Business Grant funding awarded (£)" measures the total value of these confirmed awards. Businesses then deliver their approved projects and submit claims to receive the grant. "Business Grant funding – % spent" measures the proportion of the total grant funding available that businesses have claimed and received. There is a natural delay between funding being awarded and paid, which largely depends on how quickly each business completes its funded project and submits its claim. Reporting against these measures will end after Quarter 2 2026/27, when the UK Shared Prosperity Fund closes.

3.5.1 ***ED-01/02*** One Innovation Lighthouse grant was paid during the quarter. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund closed on 30/9/26 with no further expenditure permitted beyond this date. The unspent funds allocated to business grants have been reallocated to eligible projects to ensure maximum use of the UKSPF grant.

3.5.2 ***ED-03/04/05*** Round 1 of the Community Investment Fund resulted in the approval of 47 applications with a total value of £774,062.76. The fund has a remaining £339,145.24 which will be made available in future funding rounds to support further eligible projects. Officers are in

the process of issuing funding agreements to the individual project deliverers and undertaking benchmark visits to provide guidance on compliant delivery of the projects. It is expected that the first payments of grants will be made in Quarter 3.

3.5.3 The fund is delivering investment into both long-term community assets and smaller local projects. For example, £30,000 has been awarded to Hagley Community Association to install solar panels, while £50,000 has been allocated towards a Multi-Use Games Area in Romsley, helping to improve community facilities, sustainability and recreational opportunities. At the same time, smaller awards such as £2,000 for the Alvechurch Communities Together Scarecrow Trail and £725 for Community Yoga activities are supporting community participation, wellbeing and local events. These examples illustrate how the funding is being used to benefit residents through a diverse range of projects across the District.

Environment:

3.6 ***EN-01*** Overall waste volumes across all types have increased, most likely due to increased housing across the District. Overall performance is boosted by garden waste, whilst dry recycling remains consistent with previous years. Introduction of food waste in 2027/28 is expected to help reduce residual waste tonnages and increase recycling performance further, as well as support greater engagement regarding wider recycling habits.

3.6.1 ***EN-02*** There were 671 recorded fly-tipping incidents during Quarter 2 2026, compared with 668 during Quarter 2 2025, representing a marginal increase of 3 incidents (0.4%). Overall performance remains broadly in line with the previous year. Year-to-date (April to September), Bromsgrove recorded 1,315 incidents, compared with 1,330 during the same period in 2025, a reduction of 15 incidents (-1.1%). Therefore, despite the slight increase seen in Quarter 2, the service remains marginally ahead of last year's performance overall.

3.6.2 ***EN-05*** Four Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued for littering and two for fly-tipping. Those for fly-tipping related to a resident's inappropriate disposal of waste and a householder breaching their duty of care to dispose of their waste effectively. It is important to note FPNs should only be served where appropriate rather than have any target set.

3.6.3 ***EN-06*** Performance for households supported by the energy advice service remained broadly stable during Quarter 2 2026/27, with 67 households receiving support compared with 66 in the previous

quarter. Whilst activity remains below the significantly higher levels recorded in earlier reporting periods, performance is consistent with the equivalent quarter last year. This indicates that demand for energy advice services has stabilised following the exceptional levels experienced during periods of elevated energy costs and wider cost-of-living pressures. Officers will continue to work with Act on Energy to promote the service, maximise resident awareness and monitor demand trends throughout the year.

Housing:

3.7 ***HS-01*** This is a measure of the 'speed' of decision making for those planning applications defined as ‘Major’. Government require 60% of these decisions to be made within their statutory time period of 13 weeks, or within an agreed Extension of Time (EoT) and Officers work positively and practically with applicants to secure such time extensions where possible, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and as set out on the Council’s website. Current performance remains well above the Government target of 60% with the figure for this quarter being 100%. Three applications were decided, all with agreed EoT.

3.7.1 ***HS-02*** This is a measure of the 'speed' of decision making for those planning applications defined as ‘Minor’. Government require 70% of these decisions to be made within their statutory time period of 8 weeks, or within an agreed Extension of Time (EoT) and Officers work positively and practically with applicants to secure such time extensions where possible, as required by the NPPF and as set out on the Council’s website. Current performance remains well above the Government target of 70% with the figure for this quarter being 84.5%. This is an improvement in relation to the previous quarter.

3.7.2 ***HS-03*** Since June 2024, most planning enforcement functions have been delivered by Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), working with Development Management officers. Cases are prioritised according to the Council’s Enforcement Plan, with performance focused on effective case management and securing appropriate planning outcomes rather than fixed completion times. A figure of 20 opened cases is a reduction in comparison with last quarter, when 35 cases were opened. No specific cause has been identified for the reduction, although it may reflect normal variation in demand for the service.

3.7.3 ***HS-04*** Information same as above, however this measure records the number of enforcement cases (38) closed during the period, including those resolved through informal action, formal enforcement,

prosecution, immunity, and closures under untidy land and anti-social behaviour powers.

3.7.4 ***HS-05*** Performance for building control applications was down from Quarter 1, due to the dual effects of increased application numbers coupled with resourcing issues. Measures have recently been put into place to address this situation. Statutory reports were also submitted to the Building Safety Regulator as required, ensuring continued compliance with regulatory obligations.

3.7.5 ***HS-06/07*** Homelessness prevention activity increased during the quarter, helping more residents avoid becoming homeless through access to supported housing. At the same time, the number of households in temporary accommodation reduced compared with the previous quarter, supported by the availability of new affordable housing developments.

3.7.6 ***HS-08*** Costs associated with Bed and Breakfast placements have increased as expenditure is apportioned across reporting periods for households that remain in accommodation beyond a single quarter. During Quarter 2, 12 new placements were made. However, the number of households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation at the end of each month continued to decrease throughout the quarter.

Community Safety:

3.8 ***CS-01/02*** Crime data is sourced from Police.uk, sits outside the Council's control, and is subject to reporting delays. Figures are presented separately for recorded crime (excluding ASB) and ASB, with trends potentially influenced by reporting practices and police activity. Commentary from the Community Safety Team and relevant Community Safety Partnership (CSP) insights provide context on local trends and preventative work, members to note that some CSP information cannot be shared in full.

3.8.1 Crime levels reported to North Worcestershire CSP (NWCSP) show reductions in crime across the majority of wards in Bromsgrove, with a few exceptions as detailed below. Crime data is based on reported crime and there are a number of reasons why crime levels might show as reducing. Prolific offenders may be in custody, may have moved away or may not be offending at this time for other reasons. There are also seasonal or situational considerations for reductions in certain crimes. The quarterly crime and ASB data report to NWCSP does not mention any definitive reasons for the current reductions in crime reporting.

3.8.2 Slideslow Ward recorded an increase in overall offending (15 offences). Violence with injury increased by three offences with two records relating to a single incident on Bromsgrove Highway, involving two victims who sustained serious injury as a result of careless or inconsiderate driving.

3.8.3 Cofton Ward recorded an increase in overall offending (21 offences), including seven criminal damage offences. Three incidents occurred at the same location on separate dates during the same week and involved electric bikes causing damage, however no suspects were identified.

3.8.4 The same location has 40 offences recorded over the past three years, including 36 incidents of criminal damage, indicating a longer-term issue. Most incidents involved electric bikes or scooters causing damage. Two incidents involved racial slogans being sprayed or scratched into assets, which may indicate local community tensions. This information will be discussed at the next Safer Bromsgrove CSP meeting in November.

3.8.5 Belbroughton and Romsley Ward recorded an increase of 17 neighbourhood crime offences compared to one report in the comparison period. This was driven by 14 residential burglaries within the ward.

3.8.6 Further analysis identified three streets with two repeat burglary offences recorded in each. One address was targeted in both July and September. However, no wider pattern, repeat dates or suspects were identified, and the reason for the increase remains unclear. This concern will also be discussed at Safer Bromsgrove in November.

3.8.7 **CS-*02*** Police.UK data for April and May is currently incomplete due to a technical issue which has been raised directly with West Mercia Police. The missing data is due to be restored; however, until this has been resolved, the overall ASB position should be treated with caution as it is not yet possible to confirm the full extent of any reduction or trend.

3.8.8 Within the NWCSP report, no significant ASB trends or drivers were identified in Bromsgrove during the quarter with ASB reports in Bromsgrove decreasing (- 4%) in Quarter 2 when compared with the same period in 2025/26.

Organisational Priorities:

3.9 ***OR-01*** Council Tax collection at Quarter 2 stands at 56.16%, compared to a target of 56.63% and a previous-year average of 56.54%. Whilst performance is marginally below target, the variance of 0.47% is relatively small and collection performance remains broadly consistent with historical trends. Collection rates continue to be supported by high levels of Direct Debit take-up. Performance will continue to be monitored throughout the year, with recovery interventions focused on maintaining collection levels whilst supporting residents experiencing financial difficulties.

3.9.1 **OR*-02*** Business Rates collection at Quarter 2 is 54.66%, marginally below the profiled target of 55.32%. The variance reflects normal fluctuations associated with relief processing, account amendments and payment timing. Recovery action is progressing in accordance with established procedures, and the position remains recoverable during the remainder of the financial year. Performance will continue to be monitored alongside wider economic conditions and the impact of relief and valuation changes on the rating list.

3.9.2 ***OR-03/04/05*** Local authority error rates remain low, reflecting the robust quality assurance processes in place to ensure that Housing Benefit entitlement is assessed accurately and that residents receive the correct level of support. During Quarter 2, new Housing Benefit claims were processed within an average of 23 days, while changes in circumstances were processed within an average of 11 days. Performance across both measures remains stable and is in line with national expectations, with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) expressing satisfaction with the service's performance and the authority continuing to perform within the national average.

3.9.3 ***OR-10*** Q2 sickness absence was 3.55 days per FTE, compared with 2.99 days in Q1 and 3.19 days in Q2 2025/26. The increase is largely attributable to short-term absence. Analysis is being undertaken to identify the main reasons for absence, service-level trends and any areas requiring targeted management action. Alongside this, work is underway to strengthen sickness absence reporting, including clearer identification of short and long-term cases, management trigger points and Return to Work compliance. Performance will continue to be closely monitored during Q3.

3.9.4 For some measures, there are known timing constraints on data availability. Community Safety figures are sourced from verified external data and are subject to a time lag, meaning that the latest quarter may not be available at the time of reporting. These are reflected in Appendix 1.

3.9.5 The quarterly performance reports provide an opportunity to recognise both areas for improvement and areas of strong performance. Members are asked to note that the information from these reports will be used to develop an annual report which will provide a public-facing performance overview, highlighting key achievements and outcomes against the Council Plan.

3.9.6 The Council Plan confirms that progress will be monitored quarterly (where data is available) and reported through the Cabinet and scrutiny arrangements. This report supports that approach, with Appendix 1 providing the summary view of quarterly corporate performance.

3.9.7 This section provides an update on motions considered during the quarter and the actions taken to progress them.

Motion	**Lead**	**Due Date/Status**
Cross-party working group - Electoral Matters	Melissa Bassett	14/10/2026
Response		
The Working Group completed its initial work and reported its findings to the Electoral Matters Committee on 24 September 2026. The Committee's recommendation will be considered by Council on 14 October 2026.		

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Finance and performance reporting will continue to be aligned, with this report sitting alongside the quarterly financial reports.

4.2 Where performance pressures are identified in demand led services, these are monitored alongside budget forecasts to ensure emerging financial impacts are understood early and reflected in financial planning.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No direct legal implications are considered to arise from this report. Any legal implications associated with individual projects, decisions or actions referred to within the report will be considered through the relevant decision-making processes as required.

6. OTHER – IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report in relation to Local Government Reorganisation or Devolution. The performance reporting arrangements outlined in this report support the Council's ongoing governance and assurance frameworks and provide continuity in monitoring delivery against current Council Plan priorities.

Climate Change Implications

6.2 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report. However, several measures within the Environment and Infrastructure priorities contribute to the Council's understanding of progress against its environmental and sustainability objectives, including carbon reduction, waste and recycling and environmental enforcement.

6.2.1 Performance reporting therefore plays an important role in tracking progress and supporting continuous improvement against the Council's environmental and climate-related ambitions set out in the Council Plan.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.3 There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

Community Impact Implications

6.4 Other than the community safety performance data reported earlier in this report, there are no specific community safety or health and wellbeing implications.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Monitoring performance regularly will assist the Council in effective identification and management of risks. It will also support the management of risks identified around robust decision making and the accuracy/effectiveness of performance data.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Quarter 2 Performance Table 2026/27

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

Wednesday 18 November 2026

Department	**Name and Job Title**	**Date**
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen May, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategic Partnerships, Economic Development and Enabling	2nd November 26
Assistant Director	Rob Elmes, Assistant Director for Corporate Services and Transformation	28th October 26
Financial Services	James Walton Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer	28th October 26
Legal and Democratic Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor (Governance) Jess Bayley Hill, Principal Democratic Services Officer	28th October 26
Performance and Improvement Team (if equalities implications apply)	Helen Mole, Performance & Improvement Manager	Author
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services	Oct 26